

Mission Watershed Action Plan



Community Forum

November 11, 2004

Watershed Action Plans

- Provide direction for short and long range actions
- Multi-Resource
Multi-Objective
Multi-Jurisdictional
- Integrate water quality, urban land use needs, biological resources, recreation, and community interests



Role of the Community in Creation of Watershed Action Plans

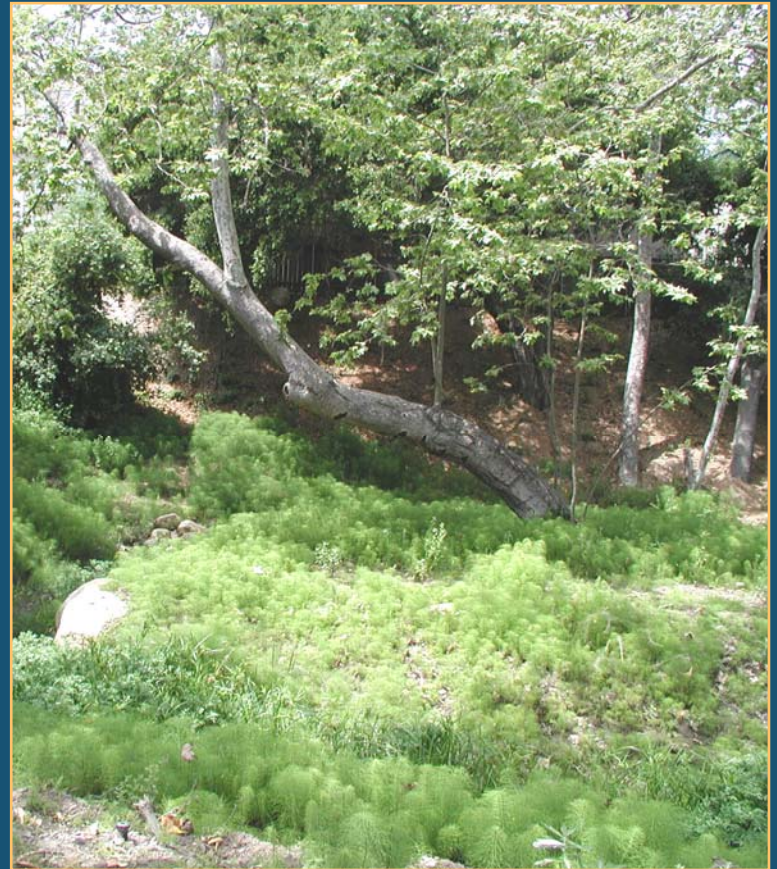
- Voluntary, not regulatory
- Establish community priorities and concerns
- Contribute to goals for watershed improvement
- Help balance multiple resources and objectives
- Focus community awareness and action for cleaner water



Tonight's Forum

We would like to know:

- What are your priorities?
- What would you like to know more about?
- Can you help us?
- How would you like to be involved?



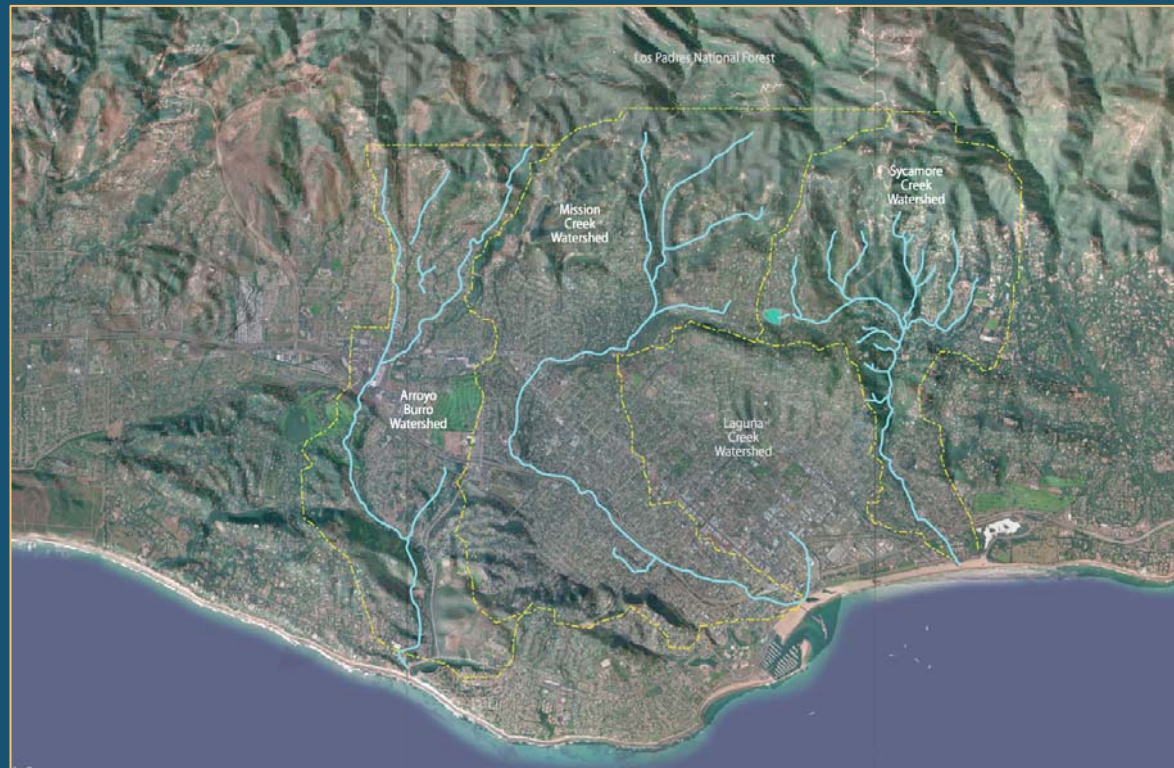
What is a Watershed?

Where we live,
work and play

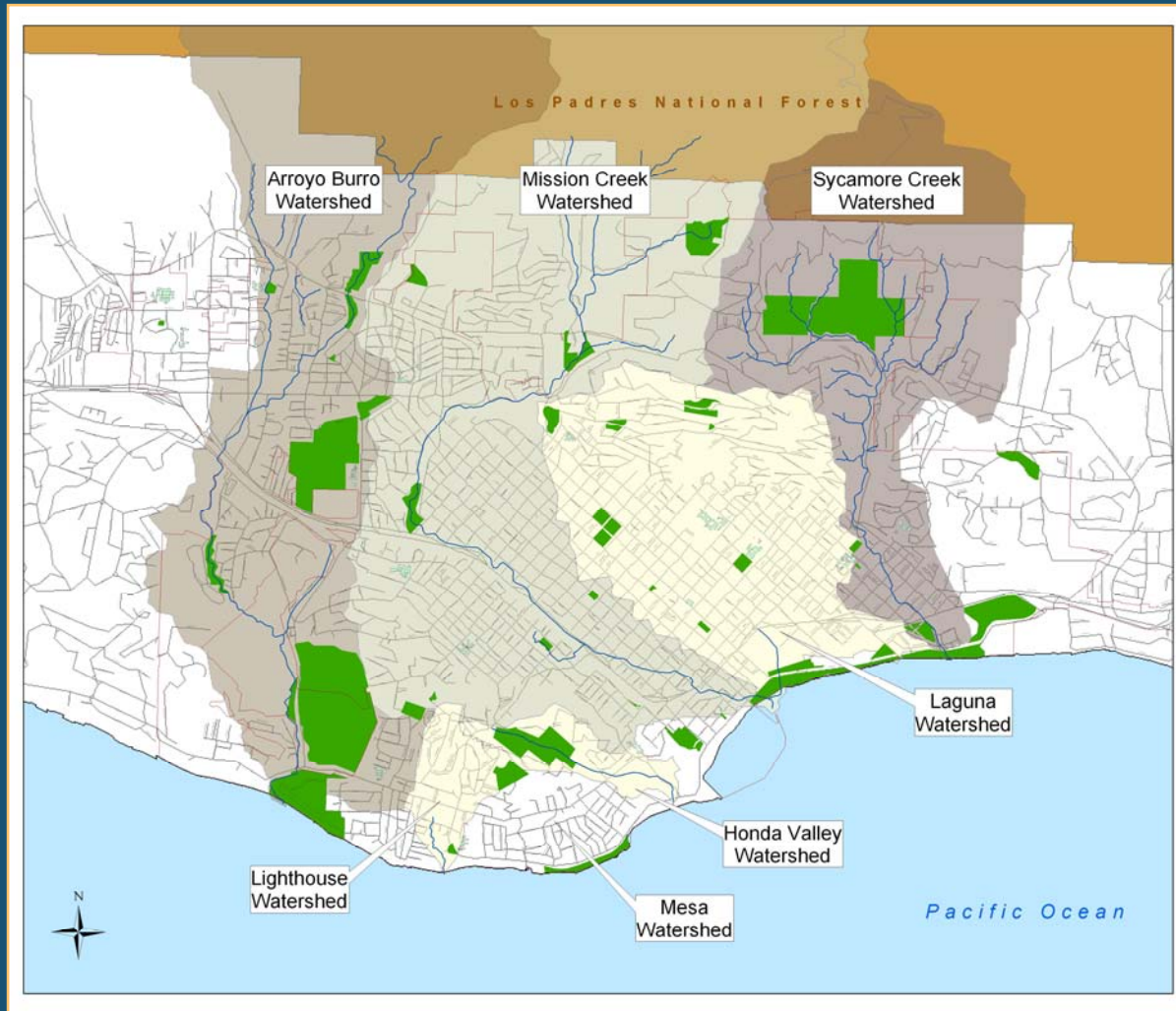
Provides habitat
for wildlife

Collects fresh
water

Drains to creeks
and ocean



Santa Barbara's Watersheds



Natural Factors to Consider

- Heavy winter rains and flooding
- Dry summers and potential for fire
- Need for conservation of water resources
- Home to numerous biological resources



Human Factors to Consider

- Water collection and distribution system
- Flood control structures, bridges, channels, pipes
- Rapid run-off patterns
- Roads and pavement
- Bank stabilization
- Homes, businesses, schools, and parks



Current Improvements in the Mission Creek Watershed

- Old Mission Creek at Bohnett Park
 - Completed December 2003, \$850 K
- Old Mission Creek W. Figueroa
 - Beginning design now, \$125K
- Urban Runoff Diversion at Haley
 - Summer 2005, \$500K
- West Side UV Facility
 - Summer 2005 \$900K
- Ongoing creek cleanups, water quality monitoring, DNA study



Benefits of Watershed Improvement

- Improved water quality
- Meet federal and state water quality standards
- Reduced flooding
- Better fire management
- More wildlife
- Reduced bank erosion
- Healthier beaches and creeks
- Improved public recreation
- Increased water resources





Framework for Watershed Action Plans

Clean Up and Trash Removal

- Reduce:
 - Litter from storm drains
 - Green waste
 - Illegal dumping
 - Human impacts
- Improve:
 - Creek aesthetics
 - Aquatic habitat
 - Safety and health



Improved Water Quality

- **Identify Pollution**
 - Bacteria
 - Pesticides
 - Heavy Metals
 - Sediment
- **Determine Sources**
 - Businesses
 - Residents
 - Public activities
 - Pets
 - Wildlife
- **Develop Solutions**



Erosion and Sediment Control

- Natural sediment needs and processes
- Beach requirements
- Effects of bank stabilization
- Effects of increased runoff



Habitat Enhancement

Areas of Focus

- Land
- Creeks
- Estuary/Lagoons

Opportunities

- Plant native vegetation
- Moderate Stream Flows
- Remove Fish Barriers

Benefits

- Improved water quality
- Increased diversity
- Increased vitality
- Healthier environment



Aquatic Habitat Enhancement

- Historic importance of Steelhead Trout
- Shade cover and water temperature
- Summer pools and winter migration
- Food chain requirements



Water Management

- Flood control
- Recharge potential for groundwater basins
- Sediment transport
- Water conservation
- Increase infiltration

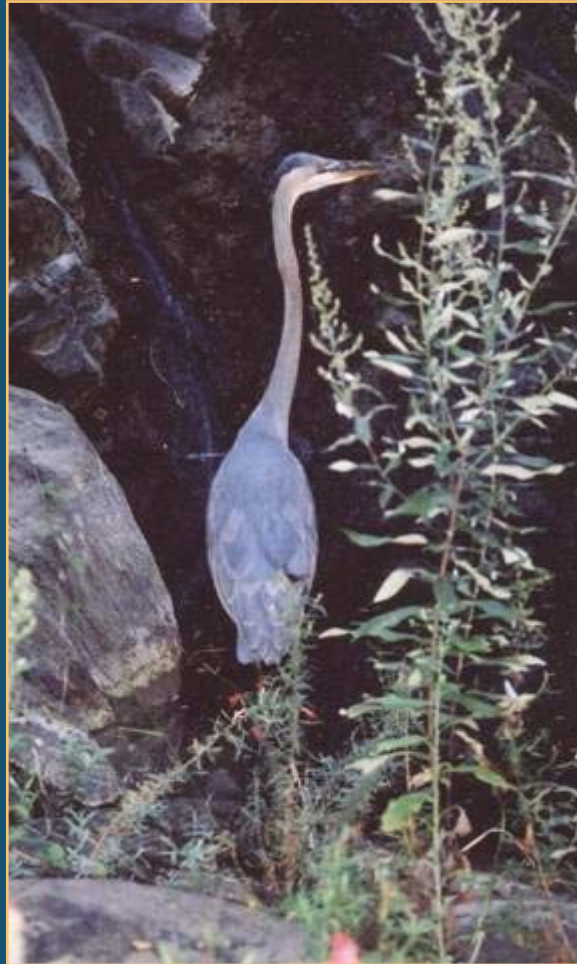


Public Natural/Recreation Areas

- Los Padres National Forest
- Restore publicly owned areas
 - Old Mission Creek
- Provide habitat for diverse species
- Balance public recreation with habitat protection, water quality



Next Steps



Schedule for Action Planning

Fall 2004

- Identify Community priorities
- Conduct Inventory & Analysis

Summer 2005

- Establish Community Vision and Goals

Summer 2006

- Develop Action Plan



Opportunities for Community Forums

- Homeowner bank repair
- Native plants
- Easy opportunities to improve water quality
- Flood proofing
- Homeowner integrated pest management
- Fire management
- Watershed walking tours





Tell us:

What are your priorities for watershed improvement?

What would you like to know more about?

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